



BLM NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Department of the Interior • Bureau of Land Management • Coeur d'Alene District Office • 3815 Schreiber Way • Coeur d'Alene, ID

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BLM Announces Killarney Lake Prescribed Burn

Coeur d'Alene, ID - The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Coeur d'Alene Field Office plans to conduct a prescribed burn near the Killarney Lake picnic site and boat launch during the week of September 14. The broadcast burn area is located above the Killarney Lake road, just 3.5 miles off State Highway 3 near Rose Lake. The 68-acre burn will be conducted over a two-day period and would reduce hazardous fuels that would otherwise sustain a wildfire. The burn will reintroduce fire into a fire-adapted ponderosa pine area with emphasis on retaining the large ponderosa pine trees while reducing natural fuels and pockets of slash remaining from work completed in 2008.

The burn will reduce accumulations of dry forest vegetation that could carry an uncharacteristically intense fire into areas where it could have negative impacts on nearby homes. Prescribed fire is an important component of natural resource management in this and other areas of public lands.

Fire personnel will work closely with the Idaho/Montana Airshed Group, the National Weather Service and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality to insure that smoke impacts are minimized. The decision to ignite on any given day will depend on favorable weather conditions and the need to reduce smoke effects as much as possible. Smoke from the prescribed fire should be much less than what would be expected from a wildfire this time of year. Smoke from the fire is expected to dissipate within two to three days after ignition.

The Killarney Lake picnic site and boat launch, as well as the Killarney Lake Road, are expected to remain open during the burn. However, there may be short periods of time during burning operations when traffic will be restricted or delayed. Residents adjacent to the burn area have been contacted and advised about this project. Residents and visitors to the area should exercise caution when driving on the Killarney Lake Road. There may be increased vehicle traffic due to fire personnel working in the area and smoke may obscure visibility along the roadway.

For additional information about the planned burn, contact Kurt Pindel at (208) 769-5015 or Stephanie Snook at 208-769-5004.

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